

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of the patience, support and assistance during the last couple of weeks while we have been displaced from our district office. Many of you sent well wishes and offered to assist in many ways including helping us move our things. It is greatly appreciated!

I would also like to extend many thanks to my colleagues and their staff that have housed us during this ordeal including: Assemblyman Bob Emmerson, 63rd District, Assemblyman Ed Chavez, 57th District, Assemblyman Bob Huff 60th District, and Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez 56th District.

Thankfully our office is close to reopening. We have continued <u>all constituent services and events</u> with very few problems.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to our permanent home soon!

Upcoming District Events

New Homebuyer Expo -- Co-Sponsored by Senator Nell Soto, the City of Ontario and Wells Fargo Financial Saturday, April 23, 2005 10AM - 12PM at the California Army National Guard Armory in Ontario at 950 North Cucamonga Avenue

Owning a home is on the list to fulfill the "American Dream." Often times people do not know where to start. There are many questions to be answered about credit scores, financing, escrow procedures and how to find a good realtor.

At this Homebuyer Expo, we are bringing together agents from every step of the process to hold booths where everyone is welcome to ask all of these questions. Participating agencies will include financers, such as Wells Fargo Financial, local realtors, local home builders, and many more to give you the answers you need!

A continental breakfast will be served and there will be a free raffle for door prizes for attendees. For more information, please contact the district office at (909) 621-2783.

Kid-Print & Mobile District Office Hours with Pomona Police Department

Saturday April 2, 2005 from 10AM – 12PM at Pomona City Hall (Outside -in front of the Library) 505 S. Garey Due to popular demand we have brought back our popular Operation Kid Print event. We will be coming to each city in the district over the year, bringing with us as co-sponsors the local CHP, police and fire departments.

Many locals have enjoyed these events, speaking one-on-one with the Assemblywoman, obtaining identification and fingerprint cards for their young children and an opportunity for the kids to inspect our local public safety vehicles.

This year, we are bringing along our caseworkers to assist all of our attendees with any issues pertaining to state departments and current legislation. If you don't have any children in the home, please stop by! Hope to see you there!

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Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod Named Legislator of the Year

The California State Firefighters' Association honored Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod Tuesday, Feb. 15, at a legislative reception in Sacramento after naming her Legislator of the Year.

The Assemblywoman was recognized for introducing multiple bills related to improving the provision of fire suppression services in California, CSFA president Kevin Nida said.

"Gloria McLeod has been a staunch proponent of public safety. She also has demonstrated strong support for firefighters, the men and women who risk their own lives in their efforts to keep the public safe," Nida said.

The California State Firefighters' Association named Negrete McLeod, whose 61st Assembly District includes Pomona, Ontario, Montclair and Chino, Legislator of the Year along with Assemblymember Rudy Bermùdez, (D-Norwalk).

The California State Firefighters' Association is the oldest and largest firefighter association in California. Dating back to 1922, CSFA has helped to improve working conditions for firefighters, and also worked for the betterment of the public in general. CSFA represents over 27,000 professional and volunteer firefighters throughout California.

Funding Sources for Agricultural Equipment and Operations

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has several programs that can help take the sting out of the environmental regulations taking a toll on the Dairy and Ag industries.

The Carl Moyer Program was established in fiscal year 1998-99 to facilitate and speed up the move to cleaner-burning engines. The program has been allocated about \$12 million for the next fiscal year. Funds can be used to help buy new vehicles or new engines, with certain conditions.

New vehicles and equipment must achieve a 30 percent reduction of NOx emissions compared to current emission standards. Alternative fuel engines, such as those using compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane and electricity will be given preference for funding. However, cleaner diesel engines may be considered in the off-road category if a CARB certified alternative fuel engine is not available for a specific application.

Vehicles and equipment funded by the program must remain in operation for at least five years, and 75 percent of their use must be within the South Coast Air Basin. The Carl Moyer program will pay for some or all of the cost difference between a new, heavy-duty diesel engine and a clean fuel or lower-emission model. All potential projects must meet cost-effectiveness requirements to be eligible for funding consideration.

Applications will become available in the summer of 2005 and must be submitted sometime this fall (dates are to be announced). The grants will be awarded in March 2006 with equipment delivered or installed beginning in the summer of 2006.

For applications or information, contact Connie Day at (909) 396-3055 or email her at cday@aqmd.gov.

Doctor and Pastor, Gloria Morrow Named Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod

Dr. Gloria Morrow, who with husband, Tommy Morrow publishes the African American weekly newspaper, Inland Valley News, is a practicing licensed clinical psychologist with an office in Upland.

She also serves as co-pastor of the Victory Outreach Community Church in Pomona, Executive Director of the Partners in Faith, and is co-founder of the annual African Village Weekend: Cultural and Performing Arts.

"Dr. Morrow is a powerhouse of energy. She wears so many hats—publisher, psychologist, pastor- it's incredible what all she has accomplished and the magnitude of the positive impact she has had on the community of the 61st District. It was an easy choice to make," said Assemblywoman McLeod.

Morrow has also become widely known for academic research, the findings of which are presented worldwide. She is also and adjunct professor at the University of La Verne, a guest columnist for Imani Magazine, and co-hosts the annual Celebration of Excellence Awards Luncheon every year in Ontario.

See photo on page 4.

Epidemic of Overweight and Unfit Children in 61st Assembly District

The children of the 61st Assembly District face a growing epidemic of obesity. Results of an analysis of the 2001 California Physical Fitness Test of 5th, 7th and 9th graders show that 30.2 % of the district's children are overweight, and another 47.1 % are unfit. These numbers are among the highest in the state.

The analysis by the California Center for Public Health Advocacy (CCPHA) charges that the physical condition of these children are dooming them to serious health problems, both now and in the future. In addition, the problem is saddling the state's economy with exorbitant and preventable long-term costs.

And, while the prevalence of overweight and unfit children is increasing across the board, the rate of increase is particularly pronounced in certain ethnic groups. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, overweight children face a greater risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, high blood lipids and asthma. They also tend to suffer low self esteem, poor body image and depression.

The problem follows many into adulthood, as well. About half of obese teens become obese adults, which puts them at much greater risk for heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. The shocking news is that physical inactivity and nutrition-related diseases are the second-leading cause of preventable death, more than AIDS, violence, car crashes, alcohol and drug use *combined*. In addition, the CCPHA estimates that obesity costs Californians an estimated \$14.2 billion a year in medical costs and lost productivity.

Dramatic action will be required to ensure a healthier future for the children of the 61st A.D. We must work to identify immediate strategies to address this epidemic.

We legislators need to look at what can be done from a policy perspective, but even more importantly, we parents need to take more responsibility for our children's health.

From http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/



Assemblymember
Gloria Negrete
McLeod and Dr.
Gloria Morrow on the
Assembly Floor
during the Woman of
the Year Ceremonies.
Dr. Morrow was
chosen for her
outstanding
contributions to the
community of the 61st
District.

Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod at the Montclair Little League Grand Opening Ceremonies.





Assemblymember McLeod speaks with a constituent at her first annual Tax Assistance Workshop in March. Constituents came with their tax forms to get free assistance from tax preparers that were on hand. Many people took advantage of the help to verify the forms they filled out themselves.